

WHOIS Background

GNSO Council Meeting
5 November 2008
Cairo, Egypt



WHOIS Background and Update

- Oct. 2007 – GNSO Council decided that a comprehensive, objective understanding of key facts on WHOIS will benefit future policy development; initiated steps to determine what studies should be done
- Public input was solicited, analyzed; categories identified include
 - WHOIS misuse
 - Compliance with data protection laws, RAA
 - Availability of privacy services
 - Demand and motivation for use of privacy services
 - Impact of WHOIS data protection on crime and abuse
 - Proxy registrar compliance with law enforcement and dispute resolution requests
 - WHOIS data accuracy



WHOIS studies – recent activities

- March 2008 – Council formed group to study options
- April – GAC published recommendations for further WHOIS studies, see: <http://www.icann.org/correspondence/karlins-to-thrush-16apro8.pdf>
- June – Study group agreed studies should only be done if resulting information advances public policy goals; disagreed about whether studies should be done
- June – GNSO Council convened group to draft hypotheses for each study recommendation, completed by end of August
- September to present – Constituencies and Council are discussing which studies, if any, should be assessed for cost and feasibility. Staff will provide cost estimates for selected studies.
- Subsequently, Council and Staff will consider what data gathering and studies should be pursued.



WHOIS – references/links to current documents and information

- Link to GNSO WHOIS resolution of 31 October 2007 --
<http://gns0.icann.org/resolutions/#200710>
- WHOIS Study Group Report to the GNSO Council 22 May 2008 –
<http://gns0.icann.org/issues/whois/gns0-whois-study-group-report-to-council-22may08.pdf>
- WHOIS Hypothesis WG Report, 26 August –
<http://gns0.icann.org/issues/whois/whois-study-hypothesis-group-report-to-council-26aug08.pdf>
- GAC WHOIS study recommendations of 16 April --
<http://www.icann.org/correspondence/karlins-to-thrush-16apro8.pdf>
- Sept. ALAC statement on WHOIS studies -- https://st.icann.org/alac-docs/index.cgi?statement_on_whois_hypothesis_working_group_studies_al_alac_st_0908_3

